

Application Serial No.: 09/965,854
Kurt A. Zarefoss et al.
Response to Office Action mailed December 29, 2006

REMARKS

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 81-82, 84-87, 90-91, 92-95, 97-100, and 103-112 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over USP 5953707 (Huang). In response to the rejection, Applicants have amended claims 1, 92, 105, and 109 to distinguish over the Huang reference.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a computer implemented method for sharing and manipulating supply chain planning data comprising the steps of creating a central database for storing and sharing planning data, providing an attribute module made selectively available to a plurality of users in the supply chain, the attribute module having access to the central database for assigning user-defined attributes to the planning data, creating derived planning data from an equation using selected planning data stored in the database, providing a hierarchy module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the hierarchy module having access to the central database for creating a hierarchy based on the user-defined attributes, providing a manipulation module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the manipulation module having access to the central database for manipulating the supply chain planning data by aggregating the planning data in accordance with the hierarchy to produce aggregated planning data, and providing a calendar module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the calendar module having access to the central database for organizing and incrementing the planning data according to a customized calendar.

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The Huang reference does not teach or suggest the step of creating derived planning data from an equation using selected planning data stored in the database. Therefore, claim 1, as amended, is believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art references of record. Claims 81-91 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

As for claim 92, the claim has been amended to recite a computer implemented method for sharing supply chain planning data comprising the steps of creating a central database for storing and sharing planning data, providing an attribute module made selectively available to a plurality of users in the supply chain, the attribute module having access to the central database for assigning attributes to the planning data, creating derived planning data from an equation using selected planning data stored in the database, providing a hierarchy module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the hierarchy module having access to the central database for creating a hierarchy based on the attributes, and providing a manipulation module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the manipulation module having access to the central database for manipulating the supply chain planning data by aggregating the planning data in accordance with the hierarchy to produce aggregated planning data.

The Huang references does not teach or suggest the step of creating derived planning data from an equation using selected planning data stored in the database. Therefore, claim 92, as amended, is believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art references of record. Claims 93-104 are believed to be in

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condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

As for claim 105, the claim has been amended to recite a computer program product usable with a programmable computer processor having a computer readable program code embodied therein comprising computer readable program code which (a) creates a central database for storing and sharing planning data, (b) implements an attribute module made selectively available to a plurality of users in the supply chain, the attribute module having access to the central database for assigning attributes to the planning data, (c) creates derived planning data from an equation using selected planning data stored in the database, (d) implements a hierarchy module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the hierarchy module having access to the central database for creating a hierarchy based on the attributes, and (e) implements a manipulation module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the manipulation module having access to the central database for manipulating the supply chain planning data by aggregating the planning data in accordance with the hierarchy to produce aggregated planning data.

The Huang references does not teach or suggest computer readable code which creates derived planning data from an equation using selected planning data stored in the database. Therefore, claim 105, as amended, is believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art references of record. Claims 106-108 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

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As for claim 109, the claim has been amended to recite a computer system for sharing supply chain planning data comprising means for creating a central database for storing and sharing planning data, means for providing an attribute module made selectively available to a plurality of users in the supply chain, the attribute module having access to the central database for assigning attributes to the planning data, means for creating derived planning data from an equation using selected planning data stored in the database, means for providing a hierarchy module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the hierarchy module having access to the central database for creating a hierarchy based on the attributes, and means for providing a manipulation module made selectively available to the plurality of users in the supply chain, the manipulation module having access to the central database for manipulating the supply chain planning data by aggregating the planning data in accordance with the hierarchy to produce aggregated planning data.

The Huang references does not teach or suggest means for creating derived planning data from an equation using selected planning data stored in the database. Therefore, claim 109, as amended, is believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art references of record. Claims 110-114 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

The Office Action rejects claims 83, and 88-89 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang. Applicants believe that the rejection to these dependent claims is moot in view of the amendments to the base claims.

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Applicants believe that all information and requirements for the application have been provided to the USPTO. If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of the Application, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due with this Response to U.S. PTO Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,
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